

Message

From: Neuschler, Catherine (MPCA) [catherine.neuschler@state.mn.us]
Sent: 5/6/2022 7:07:54 PM
To: Proto, Paul [proto.paul@epa.gov]
CC: Nichols, Miranda (MPCA) [miranda.nichols@state.mn.us]; Keclik, Donna [keclik.donna@epa.gov]; Laing, Kimberly (MPCA) [kimberly.laing@state.mn.us]
Subject: RE: Quick question on Birch Lake water quality sampling

Hi Paul -

We have not been public about this as of yet - we were not as far down the road as I thought when I talked to Donna, so we had to wrap on our own heads around it! - BUT, we have a meeting next week Tuesday to talk to the Tribes about our plans for interpreting the standard (water, duration, frequency) and our CY2022 monitoring plans. We'll need to share about Birch Lake at that point, so as long as it is after Tuesday you can share. (And we'll make sure you have the details; Kim has those more in her mind than I do.)

-Catherine

From: Proto, Paul <proto.paul@epa.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 6, 2022 1:55 PM
To: Neuschler, Catherine (MPCA) <catherine.neuschler@state.mn.us>
Cc: Nichols, Miranda (MPCA) <miranda.nichols@state.mn.us>; Keclik, Donna <keclik.donna@epa.gov>
Subject: Quick question on Birch Lake water quality sampling

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Hi Catherine,

A quick question for you on...Birch Lake and plans for follow-up water quality sampling efforts in Birch Lake prior to the MN 2024 listing cycle.

Donna has explained that you and her had a follow-up call on MN 303(d) and Birch Lake topics (approx. 4/21) where you mentioned that MPCA has plans to complete water quality sampling in Birch Lake/Bobs and/or Dunka Bays and the tributaries draining into those bays in the coming year(s). Those plans sound great and thank you for sharing those details with EPA.

My question is whether this information about follow-up water quality monitoring efforts or other future Birch Lake MPCA work have been shared outside of MPCA at this point? And whether any of these plans been shared with the Tribal partners?

I ask because we are responding to inquiries about our MN 2022 deferral on Birch Lake and are wondering if EPA can cite those future water quality monitoring efforts to be undertaken by MPCA? Namely that Minnesota plans to do water quality monitoring in Birch Lake in the coming year and that information will help augment the overall Birch Lake sulfate water quality data set and assessment decision-making in 2024 listing cycle.

And, if this information hasn't been shared outside of MPCA and you would rather we didn't cite/reference it, please let us know that as well. We don't want to overshare information which could create headaches for you all. So please consider that and let us know what is preferable at this stage in the game.

Thank you!

Paul

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